



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT OPERATION

In re application
of

Inventor: Robert M. Ford
Serial No.: 09/330,466
Filed: June 11, 1999
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING TIER-PRICED
COMMODITIES TRANSACTIONS
Art Unit: 2163
Examiner: CHOI, K.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 28th day of February, 2002.

Signature

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 9 and 10-15 as follows and cancel claims 5 and 6. The amendments are shown in detail in Attachment 1.

5/2/02
C1
1. (Twice Amended) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity comprising the steps of:

- a) determining a first price for a commodity at a first tier;
- b) determining a second price for said commodity at a second tier;
- c) determining a third price for an insurance instrument designed to

indemnify against at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity at said second tier; and